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	6.	REPRESENTATION IN	EXIST	ING SURVEYS			<u>.</u>							
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the late 1860's Mormon communities were faced with the challenge of an ever increasing number of "gentile merchants" settling in Zion. The coming of the railroad in 1869 threatened to enslave the Mormons with an economic bondage that had not been possible before. In response to these challenges church officials developed plans which culminated in the cooperative movement. The basic philosophy of this movement was that Latter-day Saints should not trade with "outsiders" but instead with local cooperative establishments which would be supplied by a "Parent Institution."

The first step in the cooperative movement was the organization of the Parent Store in Salt Lake City, Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution, on October 24, 1868. Within the next ten years more than 150 local cooperatives were founded.

Perhaps the best remaining example of a local cooperative store is the old Ephraim United Order Co-operative Building. Construction on the building began in 1871 and was completed in 1872. The building was constructed of Sanpete oolitic limestone and its front had two distinguishing features which branded it as a co-op store. The name "Ephraim U. O. Mercantile Institution" and a beehive incircled by the words, "Holiness to the Lord." Signs for the parent establishment in Salt Lake City contained the inscription "Holiness to the Lord." Nearly all of the local co-op stores used the name "Cooperative Mercantile Institution" in association with the name of the location.

The cooperative movement, as symbolized by the Ephraim Cooperative Building, was an important part of the Mormon story. According to Leonard Arrington, prominent Mormon historian, "Cooperation, it was believed, would increase production, cut down costs, and make possible a superior organization of resources. It was also calculated to heighten the spirit of unity and 'temporal oneness' of the Saints and promote the kind of brotherhood without which the Kingdom could not be built." (Leonard Arrington, <u>Great Basin Kingdom</u>, p. 309.)

The cooperative store occupied the first floor of the two-story structure. The second floor was constructed as a recreation hall and as a Relief Society meeting hall. Dances and parties were held in the second story. The building became not only an economic but also a social center for the community.

In 1888 plans were made for the establishment of the Sanpete Stake Academy. Funds were not available for the construction of a building and so the Relief Society Hall above the Co-op store was secured. Furniture (see continuation sheet)

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHIC	AL RE	FERENC	ES									
	Arrington, Leonard. <u>Great Basin Kingdom</u> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958.													
	Daughters of Utah Pioneers. These Our Fathers, A Centennial History of													
	Sanpete County, 1849 to 1947. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing													
	Company, 1947. Jensen, Andrew. "Ephraim Ward History." Manuscript: Church Historian's													
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Utah COUNTY Sanpete FOR NPS USE ONLY				
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM					
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Significance (continued):

and equipment were purchased and on November 5, 1888 the Sanpete Stake Academy was opened. The hall was used by the Sanpete Stake Academy until about 1900. In 1902 the name Sanpete Stake Academy was changed to the Snow Academy. This was in turn changed to Snow Normal College in 1917. As the first home of the school which be came Snow College, the old Co-operative Building is also of important historical significance.

The building is presently owned by the Sanpete Development Corporation which was initially founded to preserve the structure. Since its establishment the corporation has become interested in biographistoric sites in the area.





